

his conclusions with reference to purely botanical or zoological questions.

The book is a very thoughtful, sincere, and scholarly treatment of the entire range of evolutionary thought.

C. STUART GAGER

**The Swiss League for the Protection of Nature \***

A delightful book has been published in England and translated into French, giving descriptions and illustrations of the Alpine Flora of Switzerland. The pictures include snowy peaks and evergreen slopes and are in the daintiest pastel colors, tinged with the blues and purples of the distant views, and in the foreground beautiful with charming groups of alpine flowers, filling the slopes and meadows, clinging in crevices of steep cliffs and rocks and filling the spaces among the stones of the dangerous mountain trails. Here will be found in April, the hepatica and the crocus, or the primroses with the Matterhorn in the distance and the gentians at the foot of the glaciers; in June the anemones and spikes of purple orchids, wild geraniums and globe flowers; the edelweiss and Alpine rose with marguerites, hawkweed, and rampion filling the alpine meadows in July; lovely ravines, fringed with evergreens, with a gorgeous carpet of rainbow colors in the foreground melting off into the pale blues and snowy peaks of the dim distance.

One of the chapters is devoted to the work which has been accomplished in the last twenty years by the Swiss League for the Protection of Nature, of which M. Henry Correvon is the president. The League has been instrumental in setting aside several alpine gardens as sanctuaries for animals and plants and a most interesting account may be found of its experiences with the tourists on whose favor and numbers the prosperity of Switzerland so much depends. Instructions are given to the guides to prevent depredations, but sometimes even they have to look the other way and ignore the peccadilloes of rapacious tourists ("touris-

\* Sur L'Alpe Fleurie, Promenades Poétiques et Philosophiques dans les Alpes par G. Flemwell, adapté de L'anglais par L. Marret et L. Capitaine, Avec 63 illustrations dont 20 planches hors texte en couleurs. Soc. D'Édition des Sciences Naturelles. L. Marret et Cie, Paris. May, 1914.

*tes-arracheur*”). By dint of “sweet persuasiveness and moral arguments” they have arrived at a happy solution and are placing signs in all hotels and pensions, exhorting them to spare the fauna and flora. “If some people consider this an attack on their ‘liberty’ they are giving a false interpretation to this word; for the society attacks neither a sane joy nor the elements of true liberty; it attacks only license. It fights for law and order; without them there is no true liberty. Without the ‘*League for the Protection of Nature*’ the edelweiss would have disappeared from around Zermatt as the chamois has from around Chamonix. Here is the lesson of history, history that repeats itself, whether in the jungles of Asia or the forests of Africa; and which has necessitated the creation of preserves for the fauna and flora, similar to the ‘national parks’ of America; the history which has led to the closed season in the shooting of birds and game and necessitated the creation of ‘gardens of refuge’ for the alpine flora of Switzerland.”

E. G. BRITTON.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

FEBRUARY 11, 1919

The first meeting in February was held at the American Museum of Natural History. President Richards called the meeting to order at 8:15 P.M. There were 28 persons present.

No business was transacted.

Dr. E. W. Olive gave an illustrated lecture on “Some Plant disease survey work in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania.” The following abstract was prepared by the speaker:

The speaker spent the summer of 1918 in plant disease survey work, coöperating with the offices of the Plant Disease Survey and Cereal Disease Investigations, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and with the state departments of plant pathology of various experiment stations.

The special lines of investigation taken up in New York included studies on the prevalence of fruit diseases, of oat and barley smuts, of onion smut and other truck crop diseases in